

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 06177 170333Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----054983 170335Z /70

O 170250Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2296

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6177

NODIS

DELIVER AT 0800 JULY 17

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV KS US
SUBJ: OPENING UP THE KIM DONG JO DIALOGUE

REF: STATE 179542

1. DURING AMBASSADOR'S ARRIVAL CEREMONIES SUNDAY NIGHT, STERN DISCUSSED ISSUE OF ROKG WRITTEN STATEMENT WITH VICE FONMIN RHIE. STERN URGED RHIE AGAIN TO PROVIDE A LETTER OR NOTE VERBALE ON URGENT BASIS, PREFERABLY TO CONGRESS, BUT IF NOT, AT LEAST TO DEPARTMENT. RHIE SAID INSTRUCTIONS TO AMBASSADOR KIM WOULD BE ISSUED SOON WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE AMBASSADOR PROVIDE (TO DEPT.) IN WRITING ROKG POSITION, INCLUDING PREVIOUS OFFER ON KIM DONG JO LETTER. ROKG STATEMENT WOULD NOT BE AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT (I.E. NOTE VERBALE OR AMBASSADORIAL LETTER) BUT ROKG WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE HAVING WRITTEN THIS POSITION PAPER IF ASKED (ALTHOUGH RHIE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IT WOULD NOT BECOME PUBLIC).

2. WHEN ASKED ABOUT TIMING OF INSTRUCTION, RHIE POINTED OUT THAT MONDAY WAS A HOLIDAY AND HE DID NOT EXPECT TO BE IN OFFICE. WE WILL FOLLOW UP WITH MOFA ON TUESDAY.

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3. STERN TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REPEAT DEPARTMENT'S CRITICISM OF DRAFT STATEMENT (PARA 3 OF REFTEL). IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT RHIE HAD ALREADY GOTTEN THAT MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR KIM, SINCE HE DID NOT ARGUE THE POINT.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS CONCERNED OVER TIMING AND RELATIONSHIP OF CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVE AND OF OUR

PRESSURE ON ROKG TO QUICKLY REAFFIRM THAT PREVIOUS PROPOSAL REGARDING PROVISION OF INFORMATION BY KIM DONG JO REMAINS VALID. CONCERN IN ROKG CIRCLES OVER REOPENING DIALOGUE HAS ALWAYS, IN PART AT ANY EVENT, FOCUSED UPON POSSIBILITY THAT ANY SUCH MOVE WOULD ONLY AGAIN OPEN DOOR FOR COUNTER DEMAND BY CONGRESS WHICH WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE. SHOULD ROKG REAFFIRMATION OF VALIDITY OF EARLIER PROPOSAL BE FOLLOWED IN SHORT ORDER BY LETTER FROM SPEAKER AND NEW CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVE, PROPONENTS OF THIS VIEW WILL BE REINFORCED IN THEIR VIEW THAT ANY FURTHER DIALOGUE ONLY REDOUNDS TO DISADVANTAGE OF ROK.

5. TO PRECLUDE SUCH A RESULT, BELIEVE TWO STEPS ARE NECESSARY IN WASHINGTON. FIRST, DEPARTMENT SHOULD POINT OUT TO ROK EMBASSY THAT SPEAKER HAS MADE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON POSSIBLE NEW INITIATIVES AND THAT THIS MAY WELL OVERTAKE EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ISSUE THROUH RETURN TO EARLIER ROK PROPOSAL. WE WILL MAKE SAME POINT HERE. SECOND, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF DEPARTMENT COULD DISCUSS WITH CONGRESSMEN HAMILTON AND SPENCE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ROKG MIGHT BE PREPARED TO REOPEN THE DIALOGUE BEGINNING WITH RESTATEMENT OF PREVIOUS OFFER. THESE STEPS WOULD PLACE BOTH PARTIES ON NOTICE THAT MORE THAN ONE MOVE WAS AFOOT AND COULD REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF THESE MOVES BEING SEEN BY ALL PARTIES IN AN ACTION-REACTION CONTEXT.

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GLEYSTEN

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Draft Date: 17 jul 1978
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